

Today's News - Tuesday, October 18, 2011

- Q&A with Kuth and Ranieri who propose "a very different social structure" for senior communities.
- Heathcote finds "there is much to learn" from studying slums: "Perhaps we need to reframe our view of informal settlements, as not only a problem but an opportunity."
- Cruz offers a new social contract for the rights of neighborhoods at Occupy Philly (we were there!).
- McGuirk calls for a new social contract for Britain's ageing population: "why not use real designers - it's worked in Finland"; it entails strategic design and "having a design professional embedded in the process."
- Berger looks at how Seattle can "get its leadership groove back": the "secret to urban success is regional coherence" - and leadership that can define the problems and solutions beyond smart grids, deep-bore tunnels, bike lanes, and high-rise density.
- Montreal's narrow, old working-class houses "offer a glimpse of what sustainable living will look like in the future."
- Much of China's boom is "wrapped up in real estate": what will happen to the "beautiful underutilized roads, bridges and tunnels; and newly risen ghost towns" if/when the building bubble bursts ("even an empty city is not a convincing warning").
- Rochon cheers plans for a "heroic," "heart-stopping," and "audacious, daring walkway" that floats mid-air in an epic landscape.
- Kamin x 2: an in-depth look at Chicago's "park deserts" that "extract a comparable human toll...The implications go beyond greenery" + 10 ideas that could help the city's park-poor neighborhoods.
- King bemoans the missed opportunities in the redo of a San Francisco park that "seems designed mainly to look nice from surrounding buildings...Sometimes, being pretty is not enough."
- A Brazilian mining magnate has big plans for a "Disneyland" mecca for art lovers (10 hotels included).
- If Seattle's oh-so-green Bullitt Center, currently under construction, passes the self-sufficiency test after its first year, it will be certified as a "living building."
- Moore weighs in on London's newest gallery that is "lavish, ornate and slightly crazed and stuffed with cultural trophies," and University of the Arts London new campus that "gets the main moves right."
- Lubell cheers the salvation of Neutra's Kronish House; now it's time for Beverly Hills to "get moving" on a preservation ordinance "before another masterpiece isn't so lucky."
- Ma Qingyun weighs in on why he accepted the job as dean of USC's School of Architecture, and what East and West can learn from each other.
- Pedro Ramirez Vazquez awarded a "well deserved" Fine Arts Medal by Mexico's National Institute of Fine Arts.
- A good reason to head to Australia: the 10-day Sydney Architecture Festival 2011 launches on Thursday.

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Mixing It Up with Elders: An Interview with Byron Kuth and Liz Ranieri: "In its current state, the senior living industry is all about isolating senior communities from the larger communities around them. We're proposing a very different social structure." [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

Cities: Out of the slums: For many in the west, the reaction to slums is a mixture of fear, revulsion and pity, and the response has traditionally been to demolish them. Yet there is much to learn from such places..."behind the facade there is a series of very compelling socio-political and economic procedures that could be translated into new urban and economic protocols"...Perhaps we need to reframe our view of informal settlements, as not only a problem but an opportunity. By Edwin Heathcote -- Alfredo Brillembourg/Urban-Think Tank; Teddy Cruz; Lacaton & Vassal- Financial Times (UK)

Comment: A Call to Action for the Rights of Neighborhoods: This new social contract is based off of the historical model of the Second Bill of Rights that was delivered by Franklin D. Roosevelt on January 11, 1944. By Teddy Cruz [video]- The Architect's Newspaper

Mr Cameron, it's time to get the designers in: Ageing populations and budget cuts mean devising a new social contract. So why not use real designers -- it's worked in Finland...While strategic design can't necessarily find the perfect answer, it at least begins by asking the right questions...about how to bring that thinking to an effective outcome...it means having a design professional embedded in the process. By Justin McGuirk -- Sitra - Guardian (UK)

Can Seattle get its leadership groove back? The secret to urban success, says Ron Sims, is regional coherence. How do you achieve that? Leadership. History offers some examples...A key to leadership is defining the problem and solutions...it is not enough to have smart grids, deep-bore tunnels, bike lanes, and high-rise density stacked upon density, but an urban environment that is both more functional and more beautiful. By Knute Berger - Crosscut (Seattle)

Narrow Houses: Yes, smaller can be better: As urban planners, architects and developers confront urban sprawl, rising real estate and energy prices, and rapidly changing demographics, these narrow, old working-class Montreal houses offer a glimpse of what sustainable living will look like in the future.
-- Avi Friedman; Witold Rybczynski; Grow Home; Pop-Up City; Boyarsky Murphy Architects; Yasuhiro Yamashita; Aude Louis [slide show]- Montreal Gazette

What If the China Bubble Bursts? ...the Chinese boom...has blasted ahead without a glitch. Much of that boom is wrapped up in real estate...The question is whether the building bubble...is about to burst...beautiful underutilized roads, bridges and tunnels; and newly risen ghost towns waiting for occupants...Beijing knows it's time to change strategy...it's difficult to curb the enthusiasm of local officials for project development...Even an empty city is not a convincing warning... [slide shows]- Time Magazine

A heroic design link to nature: At last, the Canadian West is building a contemporary design that's heroic and heart-stopping. The Glacier Discovery Walk [in Jasper National Park] is an audacious promenade that matches...an epic landscape...the daring walkway floats mid-air...What is courageous about this kind of architecture is its potential to convince people to engage seriously with the landscape. By Lisa Rochon -- Simon Brown/Read Jones Christoffersen (RJC); Sturgess Architecture [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Cramped Chicago: Half of the city's 2.7 million people live in park-poor areas; lakefront's parkland disguises severe shortage in many inland neighborhoods: ...park deserts extract a comparable human toll...The implications go beyond greenery... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

How to correct Chicago's open space shortage: 10 ideas that could help city's park-poor neighborhoods away from the lakefront: Although Mayor Emanuel has thrown his support behind a grab bag of open space initiatives...he has yet to produce the visionary plan he promised...the best way for residents to ensure that existing parks get upgraded? It's to make their voices heard.
By Blair Kamin -- Healthy Places; Thompson Dyke & Associates; JJR landscape architects; TY Lin; Site Design Group; Moss Design [images, links]- Chicago Tribune

S.F.'s redo of Sue Bierman Park wastes opportunity: Rather than embrace the potential drama of a bay-facing block...a space that seems designed mainly to look nice from surrounding buildings...when you look to other American cities, it's galling to think what might have been...followed the design path of least resistance...Sometimes, though, being pretty is

not enough. John King -- Roma Design Group- San Francisco Chronicle

Brazilian millionaire builds ambitious contemporary arts park in the hills of Brazil: ...a "Disneyland" for art lovers in the countryside...Mining magnate Bernardo Paz unveiled plans to build a mecca for contemporary arts fans around the Inhotim Cultural Institute...already one of the most talked-about and unusual arts destinations in Latin America, if not the world...work on the first of 10 hotels will begin next year. -- Roberto Burl Marx; Inhotim- Guardian (UK)

The Self-Sufficient Office Building: The Bullitt Center, under construction in Seattle, aims to break new ground in energy conservation by providing its own water and electricity....If it passes the self-sufficiency test after its first full year of occupancy, it will be certified as a "living building"... -- Miller Hull Partnership- New York Times

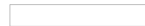
Two Temple Place; University of the Arts London: Viscount Astor's stately old HQ – lavish, ornate and stuffed with cultural trophies – to be opened as a new gallery space...added to the list of visitable internal curiosities...The University of the Arts London, the £200m new campus...uses the more usual repertoire of contemporary cultural architecture...gets the main moves right. By Rowan Moore -- Stanton Williams- Observer (UK)

Neutra's Kronish House Saved at Last: Completed in 1955, the house...came very close to its demise...a buyer with an interest in restoring the home has just closed on the house...Meanwhile the city of Beverly Hills still has no preservation ordinance, although officials claim to be developing one. Let's get moving...before another masterpiece isn't so lucky. By Sam Lubell [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Grand designs: Top Chinese Architect leads elite school in Southern California: Ma Qingyun accepted the job as dean of the University of Southern California School of Architecture because he was weary of being his own boss..."It's not about what the West is going to teach China about architecture, but about what the Chinese philosophy of living can teach the world." -- MADA s.p.a.m.- China Daily

Pedro Ramirez Vazquez awarded Fine Arts Medal by the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA): ...well deserved, because throughout his career he has contributed to the growth of the country and his work has always been related to the architecture of Mexico...."Our discipline can be original if it relies on its roots because they do not change over time..." [images]- ArtDaily.org

Sydney Architecture Festival 2011: ...offers fresh perspectives about what constitutes good architecture and design and how to create a sustainable, healthy and culturally rich built environment; October 20-30- Sydney Architecture Festival



Exhibition: "Zaha Hadid: Form in Motion," Philadelphia Museum of Art

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